THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from all State Governments/Union Territories.

(d) The Government is carefully examining various aspects/implications of the judgment dated 14.02.2006 given by the Supreme Court in the case of Smt. Seema *Vs* Ashwani Kumar, AIR 2006 S.C. 1158.

Law colleges in Jharkhand

† 1381. SHRI AJAY MAROO; Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of colleges in Jharkhand, imparting legal education;

(b) whether more law colleges are proposed to be opened or whether Government intend to do so; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Bar Council of India has informed that the total number of law colleges in the State of Jharkhand, having its approval of affiliation is 08.

(b) and (c) The Bar Council of India has not received any proposal from the State Government in this regard.

Scheduled caste judges

† 1382. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of male and female justices belonging to scheduled caste category in the Rajasthan High Court;

(b) whether there is a provision of reservation for the schedule castes in the high courts and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government proposes to provide reservation in the high courts and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Appointments of Judges of High Courts are made under Article 217 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics are, therefor, available about the number of male and female judges belonging to scheduled caste category in the Rajasthan High Court. Any change in the present system would require Constitutional amendment.

After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6,1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28,1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge in a High Court lies

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi